

FORM PTO-1390 (Modified) (REV 10-95)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">IM-85F3</div>	
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371				U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR) <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">10/018628</div>	
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">PCT/EP00/05436</div>		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">14 JUNE 2000 (14.06.00)</div>		PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">16 JUNE 1999 (16.06.99)</div>	
TITLE OF INVENTION <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR WINDING OF WEBS</div>					
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">NICOLAI, Luc, Marie, Hubert, Andre</div>					
<p>Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under <u>35 U.S.C. 371</u>. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to being national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b)) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1). 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date. 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application was filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau. b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2)). 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210). 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (3)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 9. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)). 10. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)). 11. <input type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409) 12. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)). <p>Items 13 to 18 below concern document(s) or information included :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 15. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. 16. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. 18. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail. 19. <input type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>17. General Power of Attorney</p> <p>18. Express Mailing Label No.: EJ376014246US</p> </div>					

APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR) <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">10/018628</div>		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO PCT/EP00/05436		<div style="text-align: right;"> 0418 Rec'd PCT/PTO 14 DEC 2001 ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER IM-85F3 </div>	
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20. The following fees are submitted

BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) – (5)) :

☒ Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO \$890.00

☐ International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) \$710.00

☐ No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) \$740.00

☐ Neither international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$1,040.00

☐ International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) And all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4) \$ 100.00

ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT = \$890.00

Surcharge of **\$130.00** for furnishing the oath or declaration later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)). ☐ 20 ☒ 30 ~~\$130.00~~

CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	
Total Claims	32 - 20 =	12 x	\$18.00	\$216.00
Independent Claims	1 - 3 =	12 x	\$80.00	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>				\$0.00
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$216.00
Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28) (check if applicable). <input type="checkbox"/>				\$0.00
SUBTOTAL =				\$216.00 \$346.00
Processing Fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (f)). <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30				\$0.00
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$4,106.00 \$1,236.00
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) (check if applicable). <input type="checkbox"/>				\$0.00
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$4,106.00 \$1,236.00

Amount to be :
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☐ A check in the amount of _____ to cover the above fees enclosed. **\$1,236.00**

☒ Please charge my Deposit Account No. **04-1928** in the amount of **\$1,406.00** to cover the above fees.

☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **04-1928** a duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE : Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (CFR 1.37(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

GOLIAN, Andrew G.
E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY
Legal Patent Records Center
1007 Market Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19898
United States of America

SIGNATURE
GOLIAN, ANDREW G.
 NAME
25,293
 REGISTRATION NUMBER
14 DECEMBER 2001
 DATE

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

NICOLAI

CASE NO.: IM-85F3 US PCT

APPLICATION NO.: UNKNOWN

GROUP ART UNIT: UNKNOWN

FILED: HEREWITH

EXAMINER: UNKNOWN

FOR: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR WINDING
OF WEBSPRELIMINARY AMENDMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Before examination of the above-referenced application,
please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete Claims 20-29.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, comprising means (19, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30) for causing said third roll (5) to position and align freely between said first and second rolls (3, 4) and said winding roll (2) when said apparatus is in said nominal winding position.

4. The apparatus according to Claim 1, characterized in that, in said nominal winding position, said second angle is substantially 180°.

5. The apparatus according to Claim 1, characterized in that, in said nominal winding position, said third half-plane is substantially vertical.

6. The apparatus according to Claim 1, characterized in that loading means (19) apply forces on the bearings of said third roll (5) so that the end regions of said third roll (5) abut said first and second rolls (3, 4) for any width of said winding roll (2) when said apparatus is in said nominal winding position.

7. The apparatus according to Claim 1, comprising means (11, 12, 19, 20, 21) for moving the bearings of said first, second and third rolls (3, 4, 5) along a common direction not perpendicular to said third half-plane and preferably parallel to said third half-plane, in order to adapt to the diameter of said winding roll (2) when said apparatus is in said nominal winding position, the bearings of said winding roll (2) being held fixed in said nominal winding position.

9. The apparatus according to claim 7, comprising loading means (21, 23) for acting on the bearings of said first and second rolls (3, 4) with a force having a component parallel to said third half-plane and directed towards said winding roll (2) in order to press said third roll (5) against said winding roll (2) when said apparatus is in said nominal winding position.

10. The apparatus according to Claim 7, characterized in that, in said nominal winding position, the axis (31) of said third roll (5) is located at a higher level than the axis of said winding roll (2) and that the weight of said first, second and third rolls (3, 4, 5) is at least partly supported by said winding roll (2) via said third roll (5) whereby said third roll (5) exerts a pressure on said winding roll (2).

12. The apparatus according to claim 10, comprising loading means (21, 23) for acting on the bearings of said first and second rolls (3, 4) with a force having a component parallel to said third half-plane and directed away from said winding roll (2) so that the pressure applied by third roll (5) on winding roll (2) is maximal in the middle region of said winding roll (2) and diminishes progressively towards its edges when said apparatus is in said nominal winding position.

13. The apparatus according to Claim 6, comprising means for moving the bearings of said winding roll (2) along a common direction not perpendicular to said third half-plane and preferably parallel to said third half-plane, in order to adapt to the diameter of said winding roll (2) when said apparatus is

in said nominal winding position, the bearings of said first and second rolls (3, 4) being held fixed in said nominal winding position.

15. The apparatus according to claim 13, characterized in that, in said nominal winding position, the axis of said winding roll (2) is located at a higher level than the axis of said third roll (5) and in that the weight of said winding roll (2) is partly supported on said third roll (5) so that said third roll (5) exerts a reaction pressure on said winding roll (2).

17. The apparatus according to Claim 1, characterized in that for each roll among said first and second rolls (3, 4) coming in contact with said web (1), it comprises means for selectively causing said roll either to rotate in a direction and at a tangential speed substantially corresponding to those of said web (1), or to act as an idle roll.

18. The apparatus according to Claim 1, comprising means for selectively causing at least said first or second roll (3, 4) either to act as an idle roll, or to rotate in a direction and at a speed whereby, when said third roll (5) is in direct contact with said first or second roll (3, 4), said third roll (5) is driven in rotation by friction in a direction and at a tangential speed substantially corresponding to those of said web (1).

19. The apparatus according to Claim 1, comprising means (18, 19, 20) for causing said third roll (5) to run along the circumference of said second roll (4) until said third roll (5) abuts also said first roll (3).

30. A method for winding at least one web (1) on a winding roll (2), using an apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein, in said nominal winding position, said web (1) passes between said third roll (5) and said winding roll (2), but neither between said second and third rolls (4, 5), nor between said first and third rolls (3, 5).

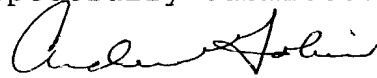
42. Method according to Claim 30, characterized in that in said nominal winding position, said web (1) is caused to arrive on said first or second roll (3, 4) substantially perpendicularly to said third half-plane.

REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that the amendments above be entered before examination of the application.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted;



ANDREW G. GOLIAN
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS
REGISTRATION NO. 25,293
TELEPHONE: (302) 892-0747
FACSIMILE: (302) 892-7343

Dated:

December 14, 2000

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In showing the changes, deleted material is shown as bracketed [], and inserted material is shown underlined.

IN THE CLAIMS:

3. The apparatus according to claim 1[or 2], comprising means (19, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30) for causing said third roll (5) to position and align freely between said first and second rolls (3, 4) and said winding roll (2) when said apparatus is in said nominal winding position.

4. The apparatus according to Claim 1[any one of claims 1 to 3], characterized in that, in said nominal winding position, said second angle is substantially 180°.

5. The apparatus according to Claim 1[any one of claims 1 to 4], characterized in that, in said nominal winding position, said third half-plane is substantially vertical.

6. The apparatus according to Claim 1[any one of claims 1 to 5], characterized in that loading means (19) apply forces on the bearings of said third roll (5) so that the end regions of said third roll (5) abut said first and second rolls (3, 4) for any width of said winding roll (2) when said apparatus is in said nominal winding position.

7. The apparatus according to Claim 1[any one of claims 1 to 6], comprising means (11, 12, 19, 20, 21) for moving the bearings of said first, second and third rolls (3, 4, 5) along a common direction not perpendicular to said third half-plane and preferably parallel to said third half-plane, in order to adapt to the diameter of said winding roll (2).when said apparatus is in said nominal winding position, the bearings of said winding roll (2) being held fixed in said nominal winding position.

15. The apparatus according to claim 13[or 14], characterized in that, in said nominal winding position, the axis of said

winding roll (2) is located at a higher level than the axis of said third roll (5) and in that the weight of said winding roll (2) is partly supported on said third roll (5) so that said third roll (5) exerts a reaction pressure on said winding roll (2).

17. The apparatus according to Claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 16], characterized in that for each roll among said first and second rolls (3, 4) coming in contact with said web (1), it comprises means for selectively causing said roll either to rotate in a direction and at a tangential speed substantially corresponding to those of said web (1), or to act as an idle roll.

18. The apparatus according to Claim 1 [any one of claim 1 to 17], comprising means for selectively causing at least said first or second roll (3, 4) either to act as an idle roll, or to rotate in a direction and at a speed whereby, when said third roll (5) is in direct contact with said first or second roll (3, 4), said third roll (5) is driven in rotation by friction in a direction and at a tangential speed substantially corresponding to those of said web (1).

19. The apparatus according to Claim 1 [any one of claim 1 to 18], comprising means (18, 19, 20) for causing said third roll (5) to run along the circumference of said second roll (4) until said third roll (5) abuts also said first roll (3).

30. A method for winding at least one web (1) on a winding roll (2), using an apparatus according to Claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 29], wherein, in said nominal winding position, said web (1) passes between said third roll (5) and said winding roll (2), but neither between said second and third rolls (4, 5), nor between said first and third rolls (3, 5).

32. A method for winding at least one web (1) on a winding roll (2), using an apparatus according to Claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 29], wherein, in said nominal winding position, said web

(1) passes between said second and third rolls (4, 5), then between said first and third rolls (3, 5) and finally between said third roll (5) and said winding roll (2).

34. A method for winding at least one web (1) on a winding roll (2), using an apparatus according to Claim 1[any one of claims 1 to 29], wherein, in said nominal winding position, said web (1) passes between said first and third rolls (3, 5) and then between said third roll (5) and said winding roll (2), but not between said second roll (4) and said third roll (5).

39. Method according to Claim 31[any one of claims 31, 33 and 35 to 38], characterized in that in step (iii), each roll among said first and second rolls (3, 4) coming into contact with said web (1) is caused to rotate before contacting said web (1) in the direction and at a tangential speed corresponding substantially to those of said web (1).

40. Method according to Claim 31[any one of claims 31, 33 and 35 to 39], characterized in that in step (iii), said first roll (3) and said second roll (4) are caused to act as an idle roll before said third roll (5) and said winding roll (2) come into contact.

41. Method according to Claim 31[any one of claims 31, 33 and 35 to 39], characterized in that in step (iii), said third roll (5) and said winding roll (2) are brought into contact by a relative displacement along a direction which is not perpendicular to said third half-plane.

42. Method according to Claim 30[any one of claims 30 to 41], characterized in that in said nominal winding position, said web (1) is caused to arrive on said first or second roll (3, 4) substantially perpendicularly to said third half-plane.

6/pthAPPARATUS AND METHOD FOR WINDING OF WEBS5 FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to an apparatus and a method for winding of webs.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 In general, webs such as thin polyester foils or other sheet materials are manufactured in a continuous process and the final products are wound up on rolls for storage and transportation.

During the operation of winding the web on a roll, it is wished to ensure an homogeneous winding on the roll (i.e. without wrinkles or puckers) and to trap as
15 less as possible air between each web layer on the roll.

The problem is particularly acute for (ultra) thin films with thickness as low as the micron size and speeds up to 1000 m/min.

In the prior art, webs, especially in case of thin ones, are usually wound at high velocities (i.e. more than a few hundred meters per minute) with the help of a
20 nip roller (also called packroll) to prevent excessive air entrainment.

In p. 33 to 35 of Air Entrainment with A Forced-Loaded Nip Roller, Y. Bae Chang, F. W. Chambers, J. J. Shelton, Web Handling Research Center, Oklahoma State University, 05/1994, it is taught that :

(aa) to keep the amount of air entrainment under a certain level at high
25 speed operation, the most effective way is to reduce the diameter of packroll ;

(bb) if the packroll (or its covering) is softer than the winding roll and too much air is entrained, then the problem can be solved by using harder materials for the packroll ;

(cc) the amount of entrainment air is not very effectively reduced by
30 increasing the nip loading and if said loading is increased too much, other winding problems can occur.

Furthermore, this document teaches that there may be practical problems or limitations in reducing the size of packrolls, for example, the packroll may become too flexible if it is too thin. However, it suggests to design slender packrolls because
35 of its importance in air entrainment and gives two examples of possible design changes by way of schematic drawings. A first drawing shows a slender roll between a roll and a winding roll, the web passing from the roll to the slender roll and then to the winding roll. A second drawing shows a slender roll between two rolls and a

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winding roll, the web passing from one of those rolls to the slender roll and then to the winding roll.

However, this document does not give enough hints for to put those principles
5 into practice, i.e. there are several practical problems that are neither solved nor mentioned. A first problem is to ensure the correct position of the slender roll between the roll(s) and the winding roll since the slender roll becomes flexible due to its low diameter. Another problem is to ensure that the tangential speed of the slender roll and of the rolls is identical at each point there between over their length in order
10 to avoid friction on the web. Another problem is to ensure the spreading of the web before winding it on the winding roll, i.e. wrinkles may remain on the web once wound on the winding roll. A further problem is to allow an easy initiation of the winding of the web: the difficulty consists in passing the web between the roll and the slender roll and between the slender roll and the winding roll. Another further
15 problem is to apply a pressure distribution over the width of the winding roll that results in a uniform air exclusion.

The purpose of the present invention is to provide an apparatus and a method
for winding webs on winding rolls which overcome these problems.

20

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The object of the present invention is to provide an apparatus and a method
for winding of webs on winding rolls ensuring a good and uniform air exclusion, no distortion of the web, a good spreading of the web as well as an easy initiation of the
25 winding thereby improving the speed and the quality of the winding.

The object is achieved with an apparatus according to claim 1 and a method
according to claim 30, 32 or 34. Preferred embodiments are defined in the depending
claims.

30

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figures 1a to 1e are schematic side views of the rolls of an apparatus
according to the invention, illustrating the operating of said apparatus;

Figure 2 is a schematic side view showing the mechanical links between the
35 rolls and the carriages;

Figure 3 is a schematic side view of the lower parts of the supports which
interlock;

Figure 4 is a schematic side view for an alternative embodiment of the invention;

Figure 5 is a schematic side view for another alternative embodiment of the invention;

- 5 Figure 6a and 6b show alternative possibilities to thread up the web through the rolls of an apparatus according to the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

- 10 Figs. 1a to 1e show the operation of a preferred embodiment of an apparatus according to the invention from the open state allowing the initiation of the winding on the winding roll till the working position for ensuring a winding of high quality for thin webs (down to about a micron for polyester webs) at high speeds (up to 1000 m/min).

- 15 Fig. 1a shows an apparatus according to the present invention in open position. A web 1 such as a polyester foil arrives from a conveyance direction indicated by arrow F. As the apparatus is in open position, the web is diverted towards a winding roll 2 (located in a lower position) via, for example, an idle roll 10 (which is fixed). The path between idle roll 10 and winding roll 2 is free in order to
20 allow an easy initiation of the winding of web 1 on winding roll 2, either manually or by automatic means. A first set of rolls (3, 8, 9) is provided on one side of said path. Said first set of rolls is carried by a first movable carriage 11 (not shown). A second set of rolls (4, 5, 6, 7) comprising a slender roll 5, is provided on the side opposite to said first set of rolls with respect to said path. Said second set of rolls is carried by a
25 second movable carriage 12 (not shown).

- Once the winding of web 1 on winding roll 2 is initiated, first carriage 11 is moved towards the portion of web 1 extending between idle roll 10 and winding roll 2, till a position in which roll 3 abuts web 1. This situation is illustrated in fig. 1b.
30 Before abutting web 1, roll 3 is preferably caused to rotate with a tangential speed and in a direction substantially corresponding to those of the displacement of web 1. Rolls 8 and 9 are shown not abutting web 1, however, it may be the case.

- Once at the stage of fig. 1b, second carriage 12 is moved towards web 1 till a
35 defined position in which roll 3 and roll 4 are narrow, but not into contact with each other. This situation is illustrated in Fig. 1c. For sparing operating time, this step (i.e. moving second carriage 12 towards web 1) may be realized simultaneously with the previous one consisting in the displacement of carriage 11 towards web 1. The

simultaneous displacement of first carriage 11 and second carriage 12 is indeed preferred. In the position of Fig. 1c, slender roll 5 is preferably located under roll 4 slightly towards roll 3, i.e. slender roll 5 abuts roll 4 but does not abut roll 3. Neither roll 4 nor slender roll 5 abut web 1. Rolls 8 and 9 of the first carriage 11 and rolls 6 and 7 of the second carriage 12 are located so as to form a jaw having been closed on the web. More precisely, roll 7 of the second carriage 12 is located substantially between roll 8 and roll 9 of the first carriage 11, and preferably in a narrow fashion but without being into contact with them. Roll 6 of the second carriage 12 is substantially located under roll 8 of the first carriage 11 and preferably close to the latter. Thus, web 1 is caused to abut roll 9 and to pass from roll 9 on roll 7, from roll 7 on roll 8, from roll 8 to roll 6 so as to form waves. The jaw defined by rolls 6, 7, 8 and 9, when closed onto web 1, isolates the winding tension from the incoming tension, which might be too low or too high. It is possible to vary the number of rolls forming said jaw. Further, before abutting web 1, rolls 6, 7, 8 and 9 are preferably caused to rotate each with a tangential speed and in a direction corresponding to that of web 1 (so as to avoid friction between said rolls and web 1); so, excessive tension on web 1 at the moment of being abutted by said rolls (which could arise if said rolls were idle rolls) are avoided. For web 1 having a width up to 2 meters and being conveyed at a speed up to 1000 meters/min, it is advantageous for rolls 6, 7, 8 and 9 having a diameter of about 120 millimeters. Preferably, roll 6 is horizontally spaced from roll 3 so that web 1 passes from roll 6 to roll 3 in a substantially horizontal fashion. Furthermore, roll 3 and roll 4 are preferably interlocked in this position in order to avoid relative change of position between them as it will be described in relation with Fig. 3.

25

Once at the stage of Fig. 1c, roll 4 is preferably caused to rotate with a tangential speed corresponding to the speed of web 1 and in the same direction than roll 3. As a result, roll 4 causes slender roll 5 to rotate by friction driving because slender roll 5 abuts roll 4. Slender roll 5 is then moved upwards along the circumference of roll 4 until it abuts roll 3 through web 1. Hence, slender roll 5 is in abutment both with roll 3 (through web 1) and roll 4, and, as a consequence, slender roll 5 is precisely positioned by those rolls 3 and 4. Web 1 passes now from roll 3 to slender roll 5 and then to winding roll 2. The axis of slender roll 5 and the axis of winding roll 2 are preferably contained in a substantially vertical plane. This situation is illustrated in Fig. 1d.

35

Once at the stage of Fig. 1d, the block formed by carriages 11 and 12 is lowered (i.e. the whole roll assembly) till slender roll 5 abuts winding roll 2,

preferably at its top. This situation is illustrated in Fig. 1e. As it can be taken from Fig. 1e, rolls 3 and 4 do not abut winding roll 2. This lowering may be achieved e.g. by a main carriage (not shown) movable vertically, on which carriages 11 and 12 are slidably mounted in the horizontal direction (to allow their displacement towards web 1 mentioned in relation with Fig. 1a to Fig. 1c). Just before slender roll 5 abuts winding roll 2, preferably at a distance of about 10 millimeters, the driving in rotation of rolls 3 and 4 is preferably stopped so as to act now as idle rolls; this may be classically achieved by disengagement of a clutch mechanism. When the apparatus is in position of Fig. 1e, it is in nominal position for winding efficiently web 1 on winding roll 2 and slender roll 5 acts as a nip roller.

During each of these steps from Fig. 1a to Fig. 1e, the rotation speed of winding roll 2 is preferably varied so as to keep a substantially constant tension of web 1 as the length of the path of web 1 varies during the deviation of web 1 by the various rolls of the apparatus. For instance, this may be achieved by controlling the rotation speed of winding roll 2 as a function of the force exerted by web 1 on roll 6, during the steps described in relation with fig. 1c, 1d and 1e.

Referring now to Fig. 2, we will now describe the mechanism for ensuring the correct positioning of slender roll 5 between rolls 3 and 4. Fig. 2 shows only a part of the apparatus relatively to rolls 3 and 4 and slender roll 5 when the apparatus is in the position of Fig. 1c. Slender roll 5 (its axis is referenced 31) is held on each end through a corresponding double acting pressure cylinder 19. More precisely, each end of slender roll 5 is articulated on the end of the rod 20 of a respective pressure cylinder 19. Pressure cylinders 19 preferably extend substantially vertically with their rods 20 extending downwards. Each pressure cylinder 19 is preferably fixed on the end of a respective arm 27 which is linked to carriage 12 via a respective pivot link 28. Pivot links 28 are preferably arranged in the middle region of arms 27. The opposed end of each arm 27 is linked on the rod 26 of a respective pressure cylinder 25 via a pivot link 29. Pressure cylinders 25 are both linked on carriage 12 via respective pivot links 30. Pressure cylinders 25 preferably extend substantially horizontally. This construction allows to change the horizontal and vertical position of slender roll 5 by controlling pressure cylinders 19 and 25. Thus, when passing from the position of Fig. 1b to the position of Fig. 1c, slender roll 5 is positioned correctly under roll 4, i.e. without slender roll 5 abutting web 1, by causing rods 20 and 26 of pressure cylinders 19 and 25 to the extended position. Then, to pass from the position of Fig. 1c to the position of Fig. 1d, rods 20 are caused to retract and thus, slender roll 5 runs along the circumference of roll 4 until it abuts also roll 3

through web 1; during this operation, pressure in pressure cylinders 25 is controlled in known manner in order to maintain slender roll 5 in abutment on roll 4 without excessive strength. Preferably, once slender roll 5 abuts roll 3, no pressure is anymore applied to pressure cylinder 25 so that slender roll 25 is positioned only by
5 rolls 3 and 4 through the pulling forces of pressure cylinders 19.

During winding, i.e. in the position of Fig. 1e, pressure cylinders 19 remain retracted to keep both ends of slender roll 5 in abutment with rolls 3 and 4 regardless of the width of winding roll 2.

As regards rolls 3 and 4, they are both rotatably mounted on respective
10 supports 13 and 14, their axis being referenced 17 and 18. Supports 13 and 14 cooperate so as to define an interlocking mechanism for interlocking roll 3 with roll 4 as already mentioned: this will be described more precisely in relation with Fig. 3. Supports 13 are slidably mounted in the vertical direction on carriage 11 (the guiding means are not shown) and are vertically positioned through e.g. double acting
15 pressure cylinders 21. Similarly, supports 14 are slidably mounted in the vertical direction on carriage 12 (the guiding means are not shown) and are vertically positioned through e.g. pressure cylinders 23. So, pressure cylinders 21 and 23 extend parallel and vertically with their respective rods 22 and 24 extending downwards. Pressure cylinders 19, 20 and 21 automatically take up the diameter
20 increase of winding roll 2. However, they are only used for to lift rolls 3 and 4 and slender roll 5 over a defined detected distance corresponding to e.g. a few millimeters. After that, it is the whole block formed of carriages 11 and 12 which is lift over said defined height and blocked in this new position while pressure cylinders 19, 21 and 23 maintain rolls 3 and 4 in abutment with slender roll 5 and slender roll 5
25 in abutment with winding roll 2. From there on, pressure cylinders 19, 21 and 23 again take up the diameter variation of winding roll 2 until being retracted again from said defined distance after what the whole block is again lifted and so on.

Referring to Fig. 3, we will now describe the interlocking mechanism of roll 3
30 with roll 4 which is active in the state of the apparatus shown in Fig. 1c to 1e. Fig. 3 is a schematic side view showing the lower part of support 13 carrying roll 3 (its axis being referenced 17) and the lower part of support 14 carrying roll 4 (its axis being referenced 18). The lower part of support 13 exhibits an arm 13a extending laterally towards support 14. A groove 15 is arranged at the free end of arm 13a. The lower
35 part of support 14 exhibits an arm 14a extending laterally towards support 13. A nose 16 is arranged on the free end of arm 14a. The shape of the free end of arm 14a matches the shape of the free end of arm 13a and, more particularly, nose 16 fits groove 15. Nose 16 has preferably a beveled edge to facilitate the engagement with

groove 15. Thus, when the apparatus comes to the position of Fig. 1c, support 13 and support 14 interlock. Furthermore, both supports 13 and 14 are maintained interlocked e.g. by way of means acting on carriages 11 and 12 so as to avoid lateral disengagement from one another. In this way, both supports 13 and 14 form one rigid block: horizontal or vertical relative vibrations between support 11 and support 12 are eliminated.

We will now describe the relationship between rolls 3 and 4, slender roll 5 and winding roll 2 from the mechanical point of view. When the apparatus is in the position of Fig. 1e, i.e. the nominal position for winding efficiently, slender roll 5 acts as a nip roller. The diameter of slender roll 5 is preferably as small as possible in order to minimize the air entrainment between web 1 and winding roll 2. Thus, slender roll 5 becomes flexible over its length and, in the absence of rolls 3 and 4, may bend and vibrate on winding roll 2 while winding. Resonance may even occur. Both, the bending and vibrating of slender roll 5 would adversely result in tangential speed differences between slender roll 5 and winding roll 2 inducing friction on web 1, variations of tension in web 1 and bad effects as regard the spreading of web 1 as well as regards the air entrainment. Thus, it is preferred to avoid the bending and vibrating of slender roll 5 while winding. For that purpose, rolls 3 and 4 flank slender roll 5 on its upper half circumference so as to sandwich it between them and winding roll 2 while winding. Further, rolls 3 and 4 are preferably more rigid than slender roll 5 in order to be able to support slender roll 5: that is preferably obtained with rolls 3 and 4 having a greater diameter than slender roll 5. Rolls 3 and 4 preferably have each a diameter being one to six times, preferably three times, the diameter of slender roll 5. Preferably, rolls 3 and 4 have the same diameter and are positioned at the same vertical level. Further, the surface of roll 3, which is wrapped by web 1 (in this embodiment), is advantageously smooth; preferably, its surface is metallic and polished, its roughness R_t (i.e. the difference between the highest and lowest point of the surface) being lower or equal to 25 μm . In that case, web 1 floats on the aerodynamic boundary layer without contacting the surface of roll 3. This results in a spreading effect. Similarly, the surface of roll 4 is advantageously smooth similarly to roll 3. Slender roll 5 consists preferably in a core with an elastic coating which conforms itself to the surface of winding roll 2. For slender roll 5 having a width up to 2 meters and web 1 being conveyed at a speed up to 1000 meters/min, it is advantageous for slender roll 5 having a diameter of about 50 millimeters and for rolls 3 and 4 having a diameter of about 150 millimeters each. Thus, rolls 3 and 4 allow to position precisely slender roll 5 between them and, as a consequence,

decreases progressively towards its edges. Nevertheless, the pulling forces $\Delta W/2$ of pressure cylinders 21 and 23 are limited so that slender roll 5 remain in abutment with winding roll 2 over the whole width of web 1. As a consequence, the efficiency of slender roll 5 for diminishing the air entrainment between web 1 and winding roll 2 is further improved as it favors the expulsion of the air caught between web 1 and winding roll 2 from the middle towards the edges of web 1 in the abutment region of slender roll 5 with winding roll 2. In practice, the pulling upward force of $\Delta W/2$ developed by pressure cylinders 21 and 23 on each end are preferably obtained by feeding pressure cylinders 21 and 23 of a differential type (at each end) with a first pressure (a) inducing an upward constant force of $W/2$ and with a second pressure (b) inducing a downward force of $(W/2 - \Delta W/2)$: thus, the resultant force on each end of rolls 3 and 4 is $\Delta W/2$ directed upwards.

As regards the abutment of slender roll 5 on rolls 3 and 4, the reaction forces of slender roll 5 on rolls 3 and 4 due to at least a part of the weight of rolls 3 and 4 supported by winding roll 2 via slender roll 5 are preferably maintained as low as possible, rolls 3 and 4 just avoiding the bending and vibrating of slender roll 5 as well as ensuring its correct positioning. Thus, compression of web 1 between slender roll 5 and roll 3 is maintained low and, as a result, avoids to harm web 1. From that point of view, the angle between the half-plane delimited by the axis of slender roll 5 and comprising the axis of roll 3 and the half-plane delimited by the axis of slender roll 5 and comprising the axis of roll 4 is preferably as low as possible, e.g. 130° . As a result, the efforts of slender roll 5 on rolls 3 and 4 are minimized for a given effort exerted from winding roll 2 on slender roll 5 if relevant.

In practice, winding roll 2 bows slightly downward due to its own weight and due to the fact it is supported on its ends. However, if designed properly, winding roll 2 is more rigid than slender roll 5 and than rolls 3 and 4, and consequently, winding roll 2 bows less downward than might do slender roll 5 and rolls 3 and 4. So, in fact, rolls 3 and 4 and slender roll 5 bow of the same amount than winding roll 2 which continue to support slender roll 5 at least over the width of web 1 as previously described. However, it is preferred that pressure cylinders 19 develop an upward force at each end of slender roll 5 sufficient for ensuring that both end regions of slender roll 5 abut rolls 3 and 4 for any width of winding roll 2.

It is preferred that slender roll 5 abuts the top of winding roll 2 as shown in Fig. 1e (or, in another embodiment, that winding roll 2 abuts the top of slender roll 5). Thus, the tangential speed of winding roll 2 and slender roll 5 as well as the tangential speed of slender roll 5 and roll 3 are substantially identical for each point on the width of web 1, and so no frictions on web 1 are generated. This is not obtained if slender roll 5 abuts laterally winding roll 2, (thus, rolls 3 and 4 flank

slender roll 5 laterally). Indeed, rolls 3 and 4 bow each downward of substantially a same fixed amount (if they are identically designed) and winding roll 2 bows downward with another amount which furthermore varies as its diameter increases due to web 1 wound on it. As a consequence, rolls 3 and 4 do not position correctly
5 slender roll 5 on winding roll 2 over its whole length and it results in differences of tangential speed vectors between roll 3 and slender roll 5 and between slender roll 5 and winding roll 2, thus inducing friction on web 1. Further, slender roll 5 may even slightly vibrate as slender roll 5 is no more correctly sandwiched on all its length between rolls 3 and 4 on one hand and winding roll 2 on the other hand.

10

In another preferred embodiment, it is proposed the same apparatus than the one described up to now, but with modified steps compared to those of Fig. 1a to Fig 1e. Initial position of the apparatus is the one of Fig. 1a. Displacement of first carriage 11 and second carriage 12 are similarly executed than described previously
15 for passing from Fig. 1a to Fig. 1c, but lateral displacement distances are modified so that the apparatus reaches the state of Fig. 4 instead of the one of Fig. 1c. Then, slender roll 5 is moved along roll 4 until it contacts roll 3, as previously described for passing from Fig. 1c to Fig. 1d. Then, the block formed by first carriage 11 and second carriage 12 (with their supports 13 and 14 being interlocked as previously) is
20 laterally shifted in order to go in the position of Fig. 1d and then, to the position of Fig. 1e.

In a further preferred embodiment, it is proposed a similar apparatus which allows to gain space following the horizontal direction. In the embodiment shown in
25 relation with Fig. 1a to 1e, 3 is laterally shifted with respect to rolls 8 and 9 which are shown substantially vertically aligned. Similarly, roll 4 and slender roll 5 are laterally shifted with respect to rolls 6 and 7 which are also shown substantially aligned. Thus, when the apparatus is in open state as in Fig. 1a, it takes some place in the horizontal direction. It is for example possible to mount roll 3 on one carriage and
30 rolls 8 and 9 on a further carriage, both being movable laterally. Similarly, roll 4 and slender roll 5 may be mounted on one carriage while rolls 6 and 7 are mounted on a further carriage, both being movable laterally. Thus, when the apparatus is in open condition as illustrated in the previous embodiment by Fig. 1a, it is possible to align approximately vertically rolls 3, 8 and 9 on one side of the path of web 1 between
35 idle roll 10 and winding roll 2 and it is possible to align approximately vertically rolls 3, 8 and 9 on the other side of said path. Thus, it is possible to spare the horizontal distance previously separating rolls 8 and 9 from roll 3 and the horizontal distance separating roll 4 and slender roll 5 from rolls 6 and 7. Then, both carriages

carrying roll 3 and rolls 8 and 9 may be simultaneously moved toward web 1 to abut it and then (or eventually simultaneously) both carriages carrying roll 4, slender roll 5 and rolls 8 and 9 may be simultaneously moved toward web 1 until that rolls 3 and 4 and slender roll 5 are in the position previously illustrated in Fig. 1c. At this stage, rolls 8 and 9 and rolls 6 and 7 form the previously mentioned jaw closed on web 1, but said jaw is then substantially vertically aligned with rolls 3 and 4 and slender roll 5 as shown in Fig. 5. Roll 6 is slightly above rolls 3 and 4 as regards the vertical position. From this position on, the carriage of rolls 8 and 9 and the carriage 6 and 7 are simultaneously shifted in the horizontal direction to get to the position depicted in Fig. 1c and then the subsequent steps of the previous embodiment are normally carried out. However, before operating said shift, it is possible to realize previously the step described for passing from the position of the apparatus described in Fig. 1c to the position of Fig. 1d in the previous embodiment.

In the different embodiments described previously, when the apparatus is in the nominal winding position (i.e. position shown in fig. 1e), web 1 passes between roll 3 and slender roll 5 and then between slender roll 5 and winding roll 2. Alternately, it is possible to thread up web 1 through a different path in the device comprising rolls 3 and 4 and slender roll 5 for winding web 1 on winding roll 2.

For instance, as shown in fig. 6a, web 1 may first pass between roll 4 and slender roll 5, then between roll 3 and slender roll 5 and finally between slender roll 5 and winding roll 2. In this case, the apparatus has preferably an open position in which slender roll 5 is located on one side of the path of web 1 in course of winding on winding roll 2 and rolls 3 and 4 are located on the other side of the path of web 1 in course of winding on winding roll 2. Then, when the apparatus is caused to its nominal winding position (e.g. by moving rolls 3 and 4 and slender roll 5 towards winding roll 2 the location of which may be fixed, or by moving slender roll 5 and winding roll 2 towards rolls 3 and 4 the location of which may be fixed), web 1 will be accordingly threaded up.

As shown in fig. 6b, web 1 may also directly pass between slender roll 5 and winding roll 2, without passing between roll 3 and slender roll 5 or between roll 4 and slender roll 5. In this case, the apparatus has preferably an open position in which rolls 3 and 4 and slender roll 5 are all located on a same side of the path of web 1 in course of winding on winding roll 2. Further, rolls 3 and 4 and slender roll 5 preferably have their relative locations already corresponding to those in the nominal winding position. Then, when the apparatus is caused to its nominal winding position (e.g. by moving rolls 3 and 4 and slender roll 5 towards winding roll 2 the location of

which may be fixed, or by moving winding roll 2 towards slender roll 5 and rolls 4 and 5 the location of which may be fixed), web 1 will be accordingly threaded up.

5 In the embodiments of fig. 6a and 6b, the apparatus preferably still have means for positioning automatically slender roll 5 between rolls 3 and 4 in the nominal winding position. Further, in case winding roll 2 is movable, it is preferably winding roll 2 which moves during winding in the nominal winding position, in order to adapt to the diameter of winding roll 2.

10 In the embodiments described in relation with fig. 1 to 5, web 1 passes between roll 3 and slender roll 5 and then between slender roll 5 and winding roll 2, when the apparatus is in the nominal winding position. Further, rolls 3 and 4 and slender roll 5 are movable from the open position to the nominal winding position, the location of winding roll 2 being fixed. There are alternate possibilities to define the rolls the location of which is fixed or movable in order to allow an easy thread
15 up. For instance, it is possible to have the location of roll 4 and slender roll 5 being fixed (however, the apparatus preferably still has means for positioning automatically slender roll 5 between rolls 3 and 4 in said nominal winding position) and roll 3 and winding roll 2 movable in order to get into the nominal winding position. Then, it is preferably winding roll 2 which moves during winding in the
20 nominal winding position, in order to adapt to the diameter of winding roll 2.

It is to be understood that in the described embodiments of the invention, the three roll system comprising rolls 3 and 4 and slender roll 5 for winding web 1 on winding roll 2 may be used independently from the jaw formed by rolls 6, 7, 8 and 9.

25 Of course, the invention is not limited to the embodiments described above.

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for winding at least one web (1), on a winding roll (2),
 5 comprising at least a first roll (3), a second roll (4) and a third roll (5) parallel to one another and to said winding roll (2), said apparatus having a nominal winding position in which:
- said first and second rolls (3, 4) and said winding roll (2) are each
 in contact with said third roll (5);
 - 10 - there is no contact between said first roll (3) and said second roll (4), between said first roll (3) and said winding roll (2) and between said second roll (4) and said winding roll (2);
 - a first angle defined between a first half-plane delimited by the axis
 of said third roll (5) and comprising the axis (17) of said first roll (3) and a
 15 second half-plane delimited by the axis of said third roll (5) and comprising the axis (18) of said second roll (4) is smaller than 180° ;
 - a second angle defined between a third half-plane delimited by the
 axis of said third roll (5) and comprising the axis of said winding roll (2) and a
 20 fourth half-plane delimited by the axis of said third roll (5) and comprising an intersection line is greater than 90° , said intersection line being defined as the intersection between the bisector plane of said first angle and the plane comprising the axis (17) of said first roll (3) and the axis (18) of said second roll (4).
- 25 wherein said web (1) passes at least between said third roll (5) and said winding roll (2).
2. The apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that said apparatus has further an open position in which said first, second and third rolls (3, 4, 5) are located out of the path of said web (1) in course of winding on said winding roll (2), the
 30 bearings of at least one roll among said first, second and third rolls (3, 4, 5) and said winding roll (2) being movable to enable the change of position from said apparatus between said open position and said nominal winding position.
3. The apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, comprising means (19, 25, 27, 28,
 35 29, 30) for causing said third roll (5) to position and align freely between said first and second rolls (3, 4) and said winding roll (2) when said apparatus is in said nominal winding position.

4. The apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that, in said nominal winding position, said second angle is substantially 180° .

5 5. The apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that, in said nominal winding position, said third half-plane is substantially vertical.

6. The apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that loading means (19) apply forces on the bearings of said third roll (5) so that the end regions of said third roll (5) abut said first and second rolls (3, 4) for any width of
10 said winding roll (2) when said apparatus is in said nominal winding position.

7. The apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 6, comprising means (11, 12, 19, 20, 21) for moving the bearings of said first, second and third rolls (3, 4, 5) along a common direction not perpendicular to said third half-plane and preferably
15 parallel to said third half-plane, in order to adapt to the diameter of said winding roll (2) when said apparatus is in said nominal winding position, the bearings of said winding roll (2) being held fixed in said nominal winding position.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, comprising interlocking means (13a, 20 14a, 15, 16) for selectively interlocking the bearings of said first and second rolls (3, 4) so that said first and second rolls (3, 4) are not free to move with respect to each other but together.

9. The apparatus according to claim 7 or 8, comprising loading means (21, 25 23) for acting on the bearings of said first and second rolls (3, 4) with a force having a component parallel to said third half-plane and directed towards said winding roll (2) in order to press said third roll (5) against said winding roll (2) when said apparatus is in said nominal winding position.

30 10. The apparatus according to any one of claims 7 to 9, characterized in that, in said nominal winding position, the axis (31) of said third roll (5) is located at a higher level than the axis of said winding roll (2) and that the weight of said first, second and third rolls (3, 4, 5) is at least partly supported by said winding roll (2) via said third roll (5) whereby said third roll (5) exerts a pressure on said winding roll
35 (2).

11. The apparatus according to claim 10, comprising loading means (21, 23) for acting on the bearings of said first and second rolls (3, 4) with a force having a

component parallel to said third half-plane and directed away from said winding roll (2) so that only a part of the weight of said first and second rolls (3, 4) is supported by said winding roll (2) when said apparatus is in said nominal winding position.

5 12. The apparatus according to claim 10 or 11, comprising loading means (21, 23) for acting on the bearings of said first and second rolls (3, 4) with a force having a component parallel to said third half-plane and directed away from said winding roll (2) so that the pressure applied by third roll (5) on winding roll (2) is maximal in the middle region of said winding roll (2) and diminishes progressively towards its
10 edges when said apparatus is in said nominal winding position.

 13. The apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 6, comprising means for moving the bearings of said winding roll (2) along a common direction not perpendicular to said third half-plane and preferably parallel to said third half-plane,
15 in order to adapt to the diameter of said winding roll (2) when said apparatus is in said nominal winding position, the bearings of said first and second rolls (3, 4) being held fixed in said nominal winding position.

 14. The apparatus according to claim 13, comprising loading means for acting
20 on the bearings of said winding roll (2) with a force having a component parallel to said third half-plane and directed towards said third roll (5) in order to press said winding roll (2) against said third roll (5) backed up by said first and second rolls (3, 4) when said apparatus is in said nominal winding position.

25 15. The apparatus according to claim 13 or 14, characterized in that, in said nominal winding position, the axis of said winding roll (2) is located at a higher level than the axis of said third roll (5) and in that the weight of said winding roll (2) is partly reported on said third roll (5) so that said third roll (5) exerts a reaction pressure on said winding roll (2).
30

 16. The apparatus according to claim 15, comprising loading means for acting on the bearings of said winding roll (2) with a force having a component parallel to said third half-plane and directed away from said third roll (5) so that only a part of the weight of said winding roll (2) is reported on said third roll (5) when said
35 apparatus is in said nominal winding position.

 17. The apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 16, characterized in that for each roll among said first and second rolls (3, 4) coming in contact with said web

(1), it comprises means for selectively causing said roll either to rotate in a direction and at a tangential speed substantially corresponding to those of said web (1), or to act as an idle roll.

5 18. The apparatus according to any one of claim 1 to 17, comprising means for selectively causing at least said first or second roll (3, 4) either to act as an idle roll, or to rotate in a direction and at a speed whereby, when said third roll (5) is in direct contact with said first or second roll (3, 4), said third roll (5) is driven in rotation by friction in a direction and at a tangential speed substantially
10 corresponding to those of said web (1).

 19. The apparatus according to any one of claim 1 to 18, comprising means (18, 19, 20) for causing said third roll (5) to run along the circumference of said second roll (4) until said third roll (5) abuts also said first roll (3).

15 20. The apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 19, characterized in that said third roll (5) is covered by an elastic material.

 21. The apparatus according to anyone of claims 1 to 20, characterized in that
20 the surface of said first roll (3) has a roughness R_t of less than 25 μm .

 22. The apparatus according to anyone of claims 1 to 21, characterized in that the surface of said second roll (4) has a roughness R_t of less than 25 μm .

25 23. The apparatus according to anyone of claims 1 to 22, characterized in that the surface of said first roll (3) is metallic and polished

 24. The apparatus according to anyone of claims 1 to 23, characterized in that the surface of said second roll (4) is metallic and polished

30 25. The apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 24, characterized in that said first and second rolls (3, 4) have the same weight.

 26. The apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 25, characterized in that
35 said first and second rolls (3, 4) have the same diameter.

27. The apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 26, characterized in that the diameter of said first and second rolls (3, 4) is one to six times the diameter of said third roll (5).

5 28. The apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 27, characterized in that said third roll (5) has a length of about 2 meters and a diameter of about 50 millimeters, said first roll (3) and said second roll (4) having a diameter of about 150 millimeters.

10 29. The apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 28, characterized in that it further comprises a first set of rolls (8, 9) and a second set of rolls (6, 7), wherein said first set of rolls is located on one side and said second set of rolls is located on the other side of the path of said web (1) and wherein said first set of rolls (8, 9) and said second set of rolls (6, 7) are movable until the rolls (6, 7, 8, 9) of said first and
15 second set of rolls contact said web (1), so that the rolls of said first set of rolls imbricate with the rolls of said second set of rolls with said web (1) being caused to form waves between them, said first and second set of rolls being located upstream with respect to said first, second and third rolls (3, 4, 5).

20 30. A method for winding at least one web (1) on a winding roll (2), using an apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 29, wherein, in said nominal winding position, said web (1) passes between said third roll (5) and said winding roll (2), but neither between said second and third rolls (4, 5), nor between said first and third rolls (3, 5).

25

31. The method according to claim 30, comprising the step of :

(i) causing said apparatus to adopt said open position whereby said first, second and third rolls (3, 4, 5) are located at one side of the path of said web (1) towards said winding roll (2) and are preferably located relatively to
30 one another as in said nominal winding position, but not in contact with said winding roll (2);

(ii) initiating the winding of said web (1) on said winding roll (2);

(iii) bringing said winding roll (2) and said first, second and third rolls (3, 4, 5) nearer until they adopt said nominal winding position.

35

32. A method for winding at least one web (1) on a winding roll (2), using an apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 29, wherein, in said nominal winding position, said web (1) passes between said second and third rolls (4, 5), then between

said first and third rolls (3, 5) and finally between said third roll (5) and said winding roll (2).

33. The method according to claim 32, comprising the step of :

- 5 (i) causing said apparatus to adopt said open position whereby said first and second rolls (3, 4) are located at one side of the path of said web (1) towards said winding roll (2) and said third roll (5) is located on the other side of the path of said web (1) towards said winding roll (2);
- (ii) initiating the winding of said web (1) on said winding roll (2);
- 10 (iii) bringing said first, second and third rolls (3, 4) and said winding roll (2) nearer until they adopt said nominal winding position.

34. A method for winding at least one web (1) on a winding roll (2), using an apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 29, wherein, in said nominal winding position, said web (1) passes between said first and third rolls (3, 5) and then between said third roll (5) and said winding roll (2), but not between said second roll (4) and said third roll (5).

35. The method according to claim 34, comprising the step of :

- 20 (i) causing said apparatus to adopt said open position whereby said first roll (3) is located on one side of the path of said web (1) towards said winding roll (2) and said second and third rolls (4, 5) are located on the other side of the path of said web (1) towards said winding roll (2);
- (ii) initiating the winding of said web (1) on said winding roll (2) ;
- 25 (iii) bringing said first, second and third rolls (3, 4, 5) and said winding roll (2) nearer until they adopt said nominal winding position.

36. The method according to claim 35, characterized in that step (iii) comprises two substeps consisting in:

- 30 (a) bringing said first, second and third rolls (3, 4, 5) nearer until a predetermined configuration in which said third roll (5) is in contact with said first roll (3) and said second roll (4), said third roll (5) not being in contact with said winding roll (2);
- (b) bringing said winding roll (2) and the unit formed by said first, second and third rolls (3, 4, 5) nearer until said third roll (5) is in contact with said winding roll (2).
- 35

37. The method according to claim 36, characterized in that substep (a) is subdivided in two substeps consisting in :

5 (aa) bringing said first, second and third rolls (3, 4, 5) nearer until a predetermined configuration in which said first roll (3) and said second roll (4) are spaced of a predetermined distance and said third roll (5) is not in contact with said first roll (3) ;

(bb) bringing said third roll (5) nearer said first and second rolls (3, 4) until said third roll (5) is in contact with said first and second rolls.

10 38. The method according to claim 37, characterized in that in step (bb), said second roll (4) is caused to rotate and said third roll (5) is caused to run along the circumference of said second roll (4) whereby said second roll (4) causes said third roll (5) to rotate by friction driving in the direction and at a tangential speed corresponding substantially to those of said web (1).

15 39. Method according to any one of claims 31, 33 and 35 to 38, characterized in that in step (iii), each roll among said first and second rolls (3, 4) coming into contact with said web (1) is caused to rotate before contacting said web (1) in the direction and at a tangential speed corresponding substantially to those of said web (1).

20 40. Method according to any one of claims 31, 33 and 35 to 39, characterized in that in step (iii), said first roll (3) and said second roll (4) are caused to act as an idle roll before said third roll (5) and said winding roll (2) come into contact.

25 41. Method according to anyone of claims 31, 33 and 35 to 39, characterized in that in step (iii), said third roll (5) and said winding roll (2) are brought into contact by a relative displacement along a direction which is not perpendicular to said third half-plane.

30 42. Method according to any one of claims 30 to 41, characterized in that in said nominal winding position, said web (1) is caused to arrive on said first or second roll (3, 4) substantially perpendicularly to said third half-plane.

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Luc, Marie, Hubert, André [—/BE]; 492, route de
Neufchateau, B-6700 Heinsch (BE).

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(74) Agent: CABINET HIRSCH-POCHART; 34, rue Bas-
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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): E.I.
DUPONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY [US/US];
1007 Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19898 (US).

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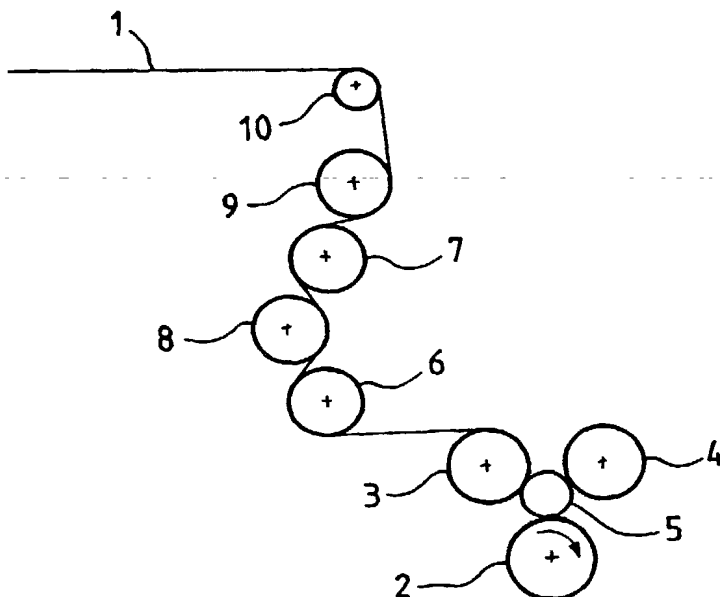
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(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **NICOLAI,**

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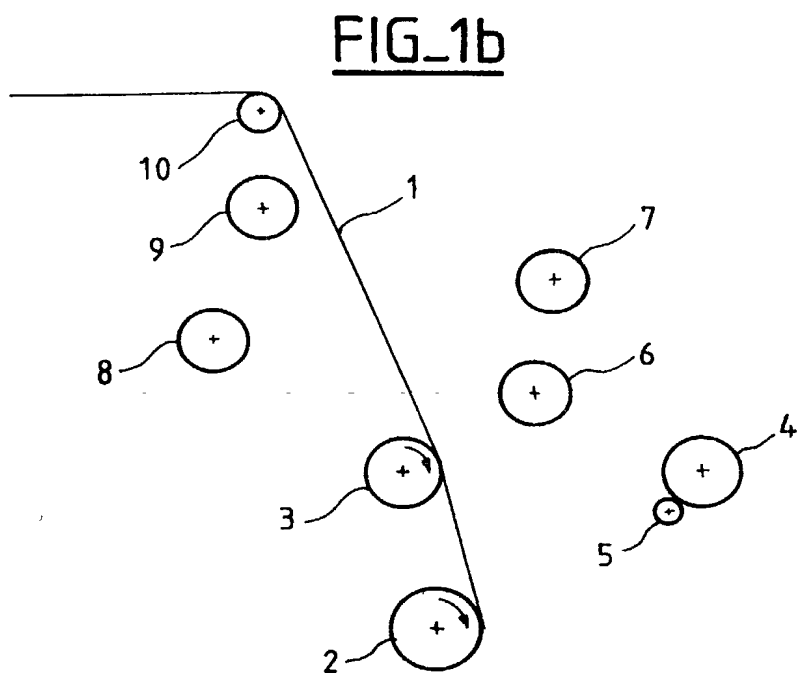
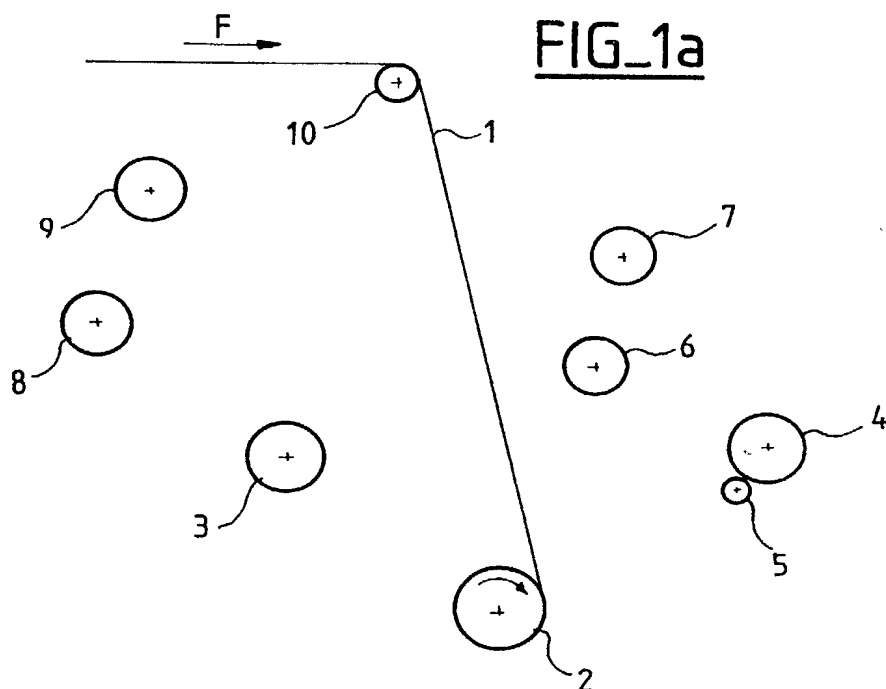
(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR WINDING OF WEBS ✓

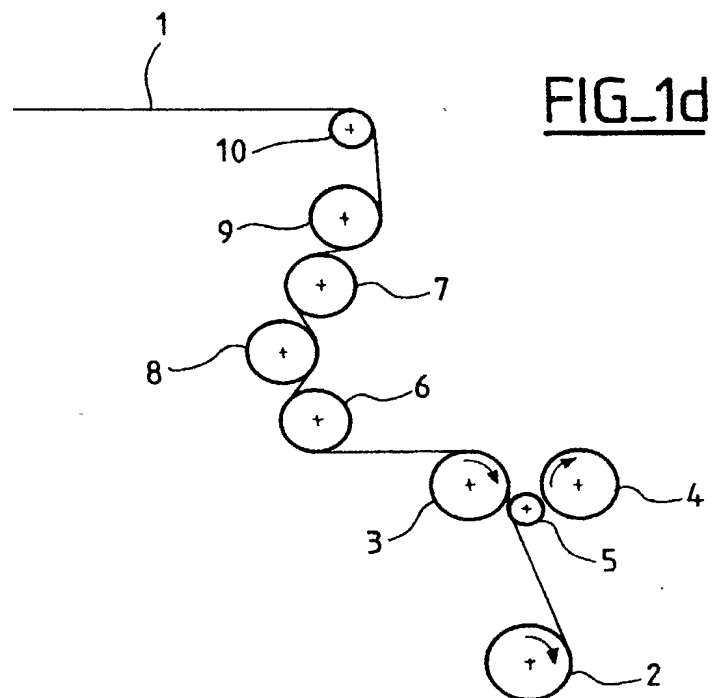
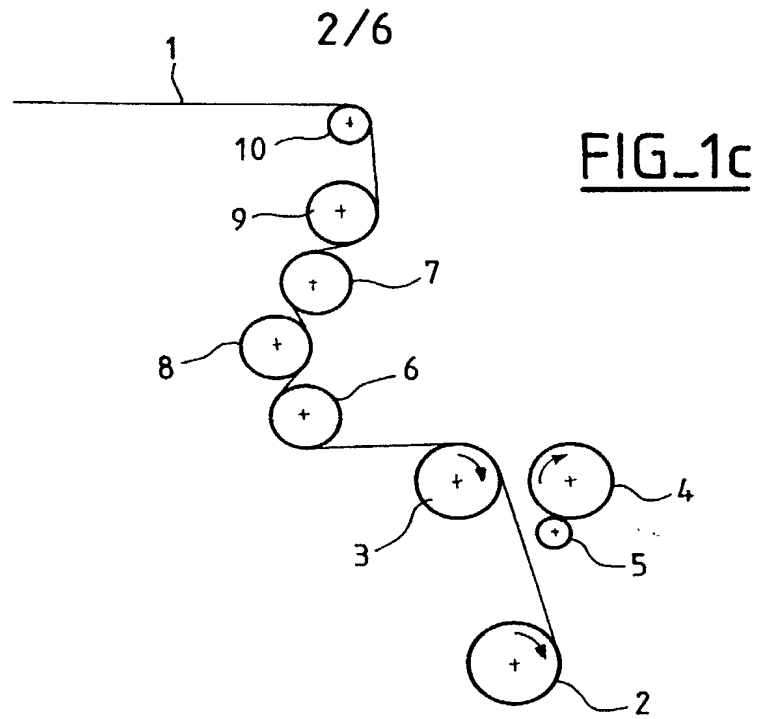


(57) Abstract: The apparatus for winding a web (1) on a winding roll (2), comprises at least a first and a second roll (3, 4) and a slender roll (5), said first roll being located on one side and said second roll and said slender roll being located on the other side of the path of said web in course of winding on said winding roll. Said first and second rolls and said slender roll are movable towards each other and towards said winding roll, so that said slender roll get sandwiched between said winding roll on one hand and said first and second rolls on the other hand, said web passing between said first roll and said slender roll and then between said slender roll and said winding roll. Means cause said slender roll to position and align freely between said first and second roll and said winding roll.

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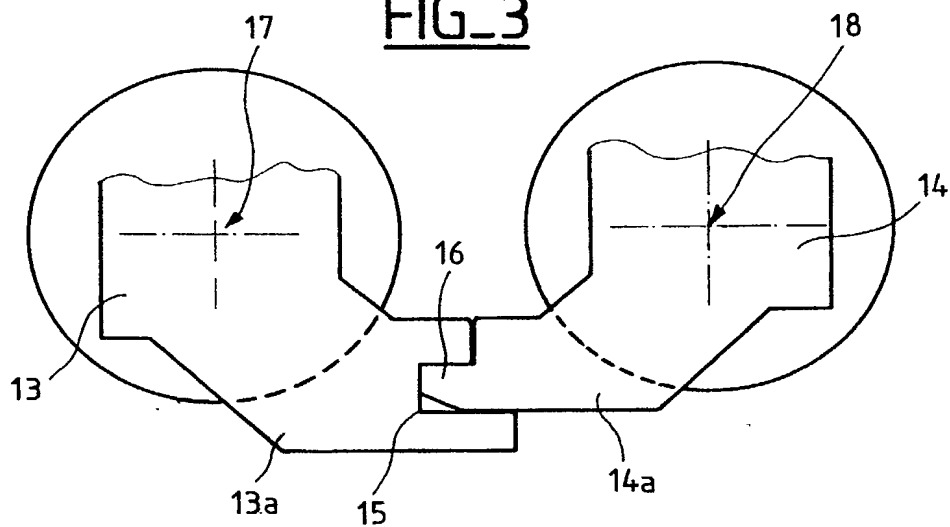
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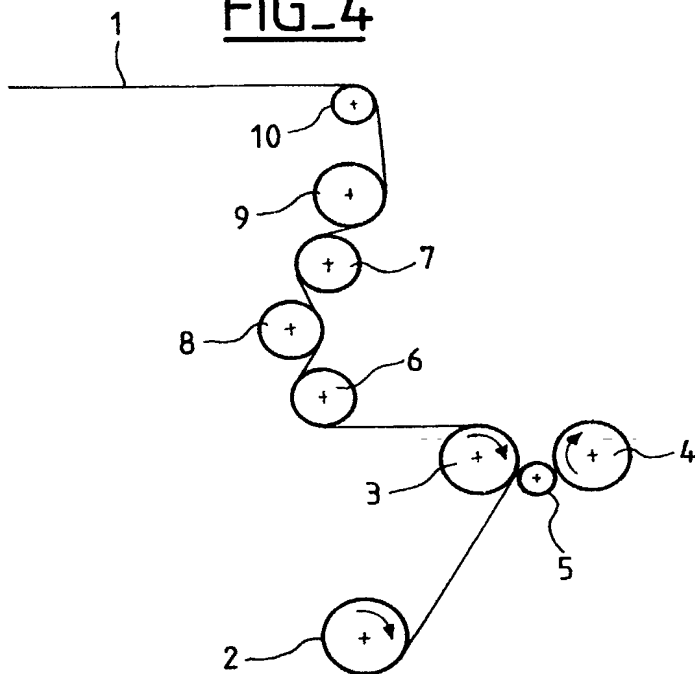


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FIG_3

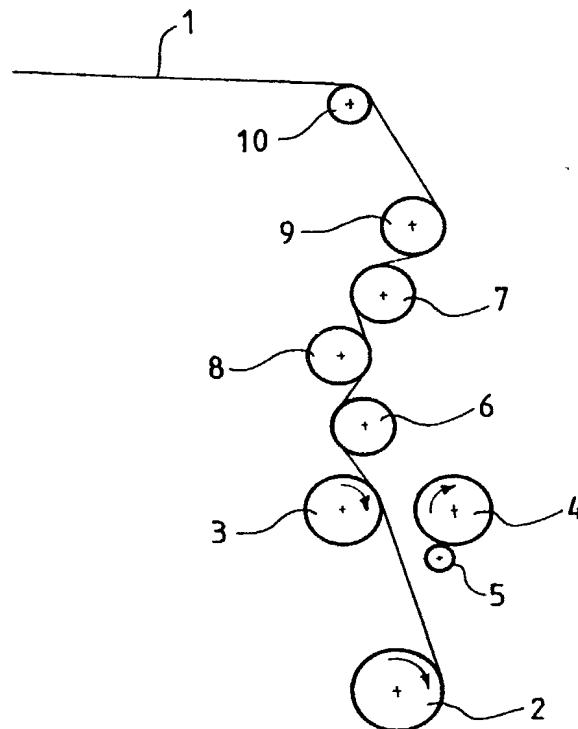


FIG_4



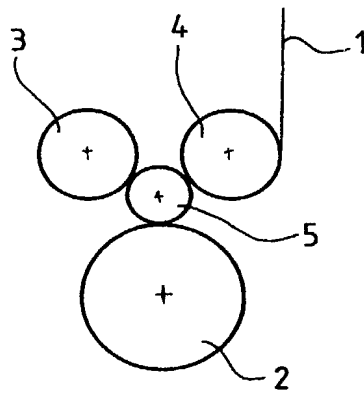
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FIG_5

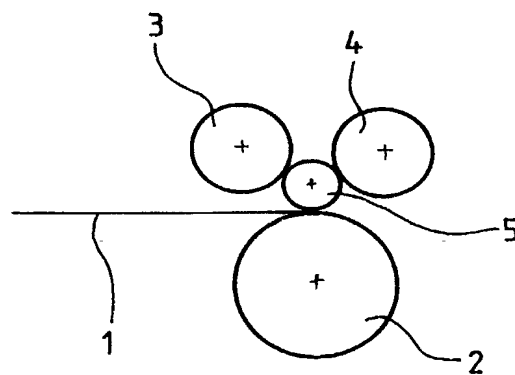


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FIG_6a



FIG_6b



10019628, 0441602

GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY
(Concerning Several International Patent Applications)

The undersigned, Vernon R. Rice, Vice President and Assistant General Counsel of E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY, 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19898 USA ("DuPont"), hereby confirms that the power to sign for DuPont has been granted to various individuals (as set forth in the attached excerpt from DuPont's Patent Board Rules of Procedure (January 1988), Appendix Section III.A.4), including the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and those individuals who are Assistant Secretaries of the Patent Board. Currently these Assistant Secretaries are:

Roger A. Bowman
Linda J. Davis
John E. Griffiths

Barbara J. Massie
Miriam D. Meconnahey
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In addition, the authority to act on behalf of DuPont before the competent International Authorities in connection with any and all international patent applications filed by it with the United States as Receiving Office and to make or receive payments on its behalf is hereby granted to:

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Birch, Linda D.	38,719	Kuller, Mark D.	31,925
Bowen, Jr., Alanson G.	24,027	Krukiel, Charles E.	27,344
Christenbury, Lynne M.	30,971	Jarnholm, Arne R.	30,396
Cotreau, William J.	36,490	Langworthy, John A.	32,255
Deitch, Gerald E.	30,457	Lerman, Bart E.	31,897
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Duffy, Roseanne R.	33,869	Mayer, Nancy S.	29,190
Edwards, Mark A.	39,542	Medwick, George M.	27,456
Estrin, Barry	26,452	Morrissey, Bruce W.	30,663
Evans, Craig H.	31,825	Reynolds, Stephen E.	37,580
Fair, Tamera L.	35,867	Rizzo, Thomas M.	41,272
Feltham, S. Neil	36,506	Santopietro, Lois A.	36,264
Floyd, Linda Axamethy	33,692	Schaeffer, Andrew L.	33,605
Fricke, Hilmar L.	22,384	Sebree, Chyrrea J.	45,348
Furr, Robert B.	32,985	Shay, Lucas K.	34,724
Golian, Andrew G.	25,293	Shipley, James E.	32,003
Golian, Paul D.	42,591	Siegehl, Barbara C.	30,684
Gorman, Thomas W.	31,959	Sinnott, Jessica M.	34,015
Gould, David J.	25,338	Steinberg, Michael A.	43,160
Griffiths, John E.	32,647	Steinberg, Thomas W.	37,013
Hamby, Jane O.	32,872	Stevenson, Robert B.	26,039
Hamby, William H.	31,521	Strickland, Frederick D.	39,041
Heiser, David E.	31,366	Tulloch, Rebecca W.	36,297
Hendrickson, John S.	30,847	Walker, P. Michael	32,602
Joung, J. Kenneth	41,881	Wang, Chen	38,650

The undersigned ratifies fully all actions already taken by the above-named individuals in accordance with the authority granted hereby.

E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY

By: 

Vernon R. Rice
Vice President and Assistant General Counsel

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